

ANT XXIII/4 Weekly Report No. 8 (to the Amundsen Sea, West Antarctica)
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The return course of Polarstern brought us from our research area in the Amundsen Sea first to the British station Rothera, due to a cargo transport, and then to the Argentine research station Jubany. The German Dallmann Lab, which is operated at Jubany Station as part of a close research cooperation with Argentina, was established primarily for biological research around King George Island. During our visit, a new cooperation contract was signed between Argentina and Germany at Jubany Station under the presence of AWI director Prof. Jörn Thiede. A delegation from the neighbouring Uruguayan research station, led by the Uruguayan Minister of Health and the German Ambassador, came to visit Polarstern.

The visit was somewhat special to the delegation as we were, at the same time, conducting a sedimentary sampling program in the Maxwell Bay using the gravity corer. With the end of this sampling program, the scientific work of the expedition was finally completed. After all cargo had been transported and all expeditioners used the opportunity for a short visit to Jubany Station, Polarstern left on Thursday evening for the last part of the cruise.

On Tuesday morning, we will arrive in Punta Arenas, the Chilean harbour town where the expedition started. Many of us think about the normal day-to-day life we have to expect back home. The expedition was fully packed with scientific data and sample collection; it was charged with excitement on whether we will reach our main area of research, Pine Island Bay, or not; the expeditioners experienced wonderful and bizarre ice landscapes and regions which had never been accessed or explored; and the participants enjoyed life and work in a very special and friendly atmosphere on board together with the ship's crew.

In the name of all expedition participants, I say good-bye to you with the very best regards to you back home.

Karsten Gohl
(Chief Scientist)